

INGENAES in October



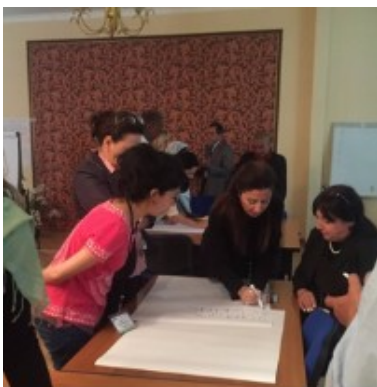
Global Good Practices of Rural Advisory Services: Gender and Nutrition in EAS 6th GFRAS Annual Meeting in Kyrgyzstan, September 14-18, 2015

In many countries women and men are extensively involved in agriculture: mainly as smallholder crop, fruit, or livestock producers or wage or family laborers. Responsibilities include growing and processing (canning and drying) food products and distributing or marketing food products in their communities. When women as opposed to men take on these roles, they are also largely responsible for family nutrition and childcare. This calls for uniquely focused extension services.

The three separate activities offered by INGENAES during the Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services' (GFRAS) annual international meeting in Issyk Kul, Kyrgyzstan, provided extension and RAS professionals with practical tools and approaches to understand women and men's unique roles and needs and to design agricultural programs that are gender-responsive and nutrition sensitive.

[Read more on ingenaes.illinois.edu](http://ingenaes.illinois.edu)

Photo credit: N. Ludgate 2015



Influence of Group Social Capital on Connecting Smallholder Farmers to Market

What is the influence of group social capital on connecting smallholder women farmers to market? Dr. Paul McNamara, INGENAES Director, and Catholic Relief Services technical adviser for South Asia Dr. Kamal Bhattacharyya are conducting research on this topic. INGENAES team member Alyssa Brodsky (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) spent two weeks in October with Dr. Kamal Bhattacharyya at two of Caritas' agriculture development projects to begin research on this topic.

Alyssa worked with the project staff to train them on conducting the research survey: the first part of a two part series to be conducted to measure the success and social capital of the groups going to market. This research seeks to help improve the local project's capacity to connect smallholder women farmers to markets using group marketing. Additionally, findings may help future projects determine their structure and planning.

Men and Elder Women's Perception of Their Roles in Household Decisions around Food

INGENAES team member Dr. Suzanna Smith (University of Florida) spent two weeks in October with Dr. Kamal Bhattacharyya (Catholic Relief Services) at two of Caritas' agriculture development projects in two different ecological contexts and multiple villages to begin research on men and elder women's perceptions of their roles in household



decisions around food. Along with Kamal, she conducted interviews with men, elder women, and households. She was able to conduct interviews with a total of 5 men’s groups, 5 elder women’s groups, and 5 households.

Suzanna’s research seeks to help in educated planning on how projects deliver nutrition messaging in Bangladesh. After giving debriefings to staff at each project she also presented at the Caritas National office where the debriefing ended with a positive, “So, when are you coming back to do more?!” remark from Mr. Francis Atul, the assistant executive director of Caritas/Bangladesh.

Photo credit: A. Brodsky 2015



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Resources and Related News

- [Library resources](#) and [publications](#)
- Recent [Zambia agricultural overview](#) from Global Harvest Initiative
- “Understanding Agriculture to Nutrition Linkages: A Rapidly Moving Agenda” event [presentations](#)
- [Video](#) on healthy eating though beans!



Upcoming: NHG Conference

Register before Nov. 6 for the [Nutrition, Health and Gender in Sub-Saharan Africa Conference](#) taking place at University of Illinois Nov. 12-13!

Participants at the gender and nutrition workshop day during the African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services explored some defining questions: How are women and men supposed to act? How is this influenced? What and how can we influence these factors to increase awareness of and about gender equity? [More here](#). Photo credit: K. Colverson 2015

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The USAID funded Integrating Gender and Nutrition within Agricultural Extension Services (INGENAES) project is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). INGENAES is designed to assist partners in Feed the Future countries (www.feedthefuture.gov) to build more robust, gender-responsive, and nutrition-sensitive institutions, projects and programs capable of assessing and responding to the needs of both men and women farmers through extension and advisory services.

Email abohn@illinois.edu with questions or comments.

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